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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/815,313	03/22/2001	Thomas Alexander Aber	END9 0175 US1	4658

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SHELLEY M. BECKSTRAND
61 GLENMONT ROAD
WOODLAWN, VA 24381

EXAMINER

KRAMER, JAMES A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3627

DATE MAILED: 06/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/815,313

Applicant(s)

ABER ET AL.

Examiner

James A. Kramer

Art Unit

3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 3 and 13 are objected to because of the following informalities: Examiner notes the user of the term “look and feel” in claims 3 and 13 and asserts that while it appear Applicant intends to use this term to indicate that same look, the concept of providing the same “feel” adds confusion. It is not possible to provide, via a computer representation, the same feel as a paper invoice.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maners in view of Virgin et al, and further in view of Cukor et al.

Maners teaches a remote electronic invoice entry and validation system and method. Maners teaches that a generating a purchase order before receiving an invoice (see column 5, lines 44-46). Examiner further references the background section for a description of the typical transaction process. Based on these teachings, Examiner asserts that Maners teaches receiving a requisition at an enterprise accounting and catalo system (MicroEDI server), preparing a purchase order and submitting the purchase order as an EDI message.

Maners further teaches receiving an invoice from a vendor as an electronic invoice (see column 5, lines 40-58).

Art Unit: 3627

Examiner notes however, that Maners teaches when an invoice associated with a purchase order is received it is automatically approved. As such Maners fails to teach communicating by e-mail an invoice confirmation request to the individual who created the original order. Maners further fails to teach when a user logs on displaying a list of invoice awaiting confirmation.

Virgin et al. teaches a system and method for collecting invoices, including a central invoicing system that includes approval rules logic allowing a company to define who in an organization is authorized to approve certain invoices (see column 10, lines 32-53). Examiner notes that this ensures that only the appropriate people in the payer's organization approve the payment of an invoice (see column 2, lines 46-49). Virgin et al. further teaches the user receiving an email notification (column 13, lines 25-30) and when the user log in, the system automatically retrieves invoices which require the user's authorization (column 11, lines 16-26).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the MicroEDI server of Maners to include approval rules logic that requires the approval of the individual that created the original order as taught by Virgin et al. It further would have been obvious to modify the MicroEDI server of Maners to include email notification and automatic retrieval of invoices which require a particular user's authorization as taught by Virgin et al.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the reference in order to ensure proper approval prior to payment of the invoice as taught by Virgin et al. Examiner notes that this represents positive confirmation of the invoice.

Art Unit: 3627

Examiner notes that Maners does not teach a search interface for displaying invoices that match a search criteria.

Virgin et al. teaches a database query program for the retrieval of data from the database in a structured query language (see column 13, lines 5-9). Examiner notes that this represents a search interface.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention modify the MicroEDI server of Maners to include a database query program as taught by Virgin et al. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the reference in order to allow a user to extract particular invoice data from the database (see Virgin et al. column 13, lines 1-5).

Examiner notes that the combination of Maners in view of Virgin et al. fails to teach receiving paper copies of invoices, scanning the paper copies and storing the invoice image in an image store.

Cukor, as stated in previous Office Actions teaches a system and method of processing document images. In particular, when a paper document is received it is scanned by a remote station and saved to an image file server. A microcomputer serves as a controller for the scanner and provides a data file by which transaction-related information is associated with the captured images (column 6; lines 33-36).

Cukor further teaches, in a situation where a company already has a fully operational and satisfactory computer-based system for invoicing, which includes data files containing transaction related information, associating a separate image file server to these files (column 8; lines 5-30).

Art Unit: 3627

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the MicroEDI application of Maners by including the invoice scanning and file server of Cukor and associating it with the electronic invoice information of Manners in order to allow a vendor with out Internet or computer access to submit invoice to the company and have the company process them electronically.

Examiner notes that the combination of Maners in view of Virgin et al. in further view of Cukor et al. does not teach providing an image data of an invoice with the same look and feel as the paper version.

The common knowledge or well-known in the art statement made by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed 1/14/04 is taken to be admitted prior art because applicant either failed to traverse the examiner's assertion of Official Notice or the traverse was inadequate (MPEP2144.03(C)). Examiner further supports this position by the teaching of Kolling et al. noted in the Office Action mailed 1/12/05. It is therefore admitted as Prior Art for software developers to develop electronic forms that look and feel just like their paper counterparts in order provide the end user with a system they are already familiar with.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Maners in view of Virgin et al. in further view of Cukor et al. so that the invoice image presented to the authorizing user looked and felt just like a paper version in order to provide the authorizing users with a system they are already familiar with.

Art Unit: 3627

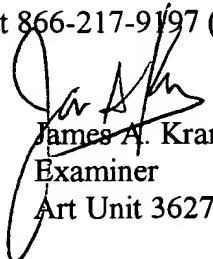
Conclusion

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A. Kramer whose telephone number is (571) 272 6783. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8AM - 5PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on (571) 272 6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

 6/16/05
James A. Kramer
Examiner
Art Unit 3627

jak